

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Waste & Underground Tank Management Bureau
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901
(406) 444-5300**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Division/Bureau: Permitting & Compliance Division / Waste & Underground Tank Management Bureau / Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Program

Project or Application: Adios Recycling at Alberton, MT - A proposed private auto wrecking facility.

Description of Project: Joe Hanson / dba / Adios Recycling located at Alberton, Montana, has submitted a motor vehicle wrecking facility license application to this department for review. The proposed facility consists of approximately 11 acres whose location is Lot C, Outlot C, in the NW ¼ of Sec.3, T14N, R23W in Mineral County.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: Mr. Joe Hanson is proposing to establish a motor vehicle wrecking facility at Alberton, MT. As required by the Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Act, all wrecking facilities must be shielded from public view. "Public View" is defined as any point six (6) feet above the surface of the center of a public road from which the junk vehicles can be seen. By obtaining a motor vehicle wrecking facility license, Mr. Hanson would be allowed to: (1) Buy, sell, or deal in four or more vehicles per year of a type required to be licensed, for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially altering the form of the motor vehicle, (2) Buy or sell component parts, in whole or in part, and deal in second-hand junk vehicles, and (3) Purchase wrecked vehicles from insurance companies. Insurance companies are required by state law to sell junk vehicles only to licensed motor vehicle wrecking facilities. This business would provide a commercial source of automotive parts which would provide a cost saving to the consumer and would conserve energy and natural resources otherwise used to manufacture new parts.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:

Alternative #1. Not to establish and license a facility at this location. This would limit public access to used automotive parts.

Alternative #2. To establish and license a facility at a location other than the one proposed in the license application. This would require the applicant to find and acquire by purchase or lease a different parcel of property for the proposed usage.

A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

1. Automotive fluids **must be** drained from the vehicles prior to the vehicle being placed in storage. All fluids removed from the vehicles must be captured over an impermeable surface, properly containerized, and properly stored for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. This is a management method intended to alleviate the potential for groundwater contamination. This is a license condition enforceable by the agency.

2. CFCs (Freon) **must not** be released to the environment. CFC's are suspected ozone-depleting compounds that were used in some automotive and home refrigeration and air conditioning systems. This requirement is enforced by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
3. A Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit may be required and can be applied for through the Storm Water Discharge Program of the MT DEQ.
4. Junkyard activities, in addition to the motor vehicle wrecking facility activities, have and may continue to occur at this location. The location is within 1,000 feet of Interstate Highway 90, a federally funded major roadway. A Junkyard License may also be needed for this location. Junkyard Licenses are issued by the Montana Department of Transportation.

Recommendation:

Notify the following Programs or Agencies: The MT DEQ Storm Water Discharge Permit Program has been notified of this proposed application and the probable need for the permit. The Montana Department of Transportation has been notified of this application and the probable need for a Junkyard License.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: Based on the information submitted for review with the license application, it is the preliminary determination of the department that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will provide an adequate review for this proposal.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Mineral County Commissioners, Mineral County Junk Vehicle Program, Mineral County Planning Office, MT Hazardous Waste Program, MT Solid Waste Program, US EPA Clean Air Act Program, Montana Department of Transportation.

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Montana Historical Society, and State Historic Preservation Office.

EA prepared by Darrell A. Stankey

Date: June 30, 2005

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat			xxx			xxx
2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			xxx			xxx
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			xxx			xxx
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			xxx			xxx
5. Aesthetics		xxx				xxx
6. Air Quality				xxx		
7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources				xxx		
8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy				xxx		
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites				xxx		xxx

*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Attached

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS: Upon closure of the facility and the removal of junk vehicles and associated debris, the aesthetics of the site will return to close to its original state after appropriate reseeding and weed control.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Social Structure and Mores				xxx		
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				xxx		
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			xxx			xxx
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production				xxx		
5. Human Health				xxx		
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				xxx		
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment			xxx			xxx
8. Distribution of Population				xxx		
9. Demands for Government Services			xxx			xxx
10. Industrial and Commercial Activities				xxx		
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				xxx		xxx

*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Attached

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS: The impacts are anticipated to minor but positive on the human environment. The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility may create additional employment in the area.

ADIOS RECYCLING - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

General Comments

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality licenses and regulates motor vehicle wrecking facilities under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Act (75-10-501, MCA) and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 17.50.201).

To be eligible for licensing, a proposed wrecking facility must:

- 1) Be in compliance with all existing zoning ordinances on the date the license application is submitted to the department.
- 2) Be capable of being shielded from view of any existing public road. If the license application is approved, the applicant must construct all necessary shielding prior to licensure.
- 3) Not create any adverse environmental impacts.

The department has made the preliminary determination that the applicant is in compliance with the existing zoning ordinances as of the date of the submittal of the application and can effectively shield the proposed facility from all public roads in the area. The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to determine if the proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility can be established without posing significant adverse environmental impacts.

Potential Impacts on Physical Environment

1. Terrestrial & aquatic life habitats
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

The proposed site of the wrecking facility is an 11 plus acre parcel owned by the applicant. This facility will be located at Alberton, MT. The legal description of the facility is Lot C, Outlot C, in the NW ¼ of Sec.3, T14N, R23W in Mineral County. The facility will be shielded by a wood fence placed to the north of the building and the road traversing through the center of the property. The fence will run roughly east to west. Natural terrain will provide shielding on the east, west and north sides of the fence. The height of the wood fence will be constructed to a height sufficient to shield the vehicles from public view.

This wrecking facility is surrounded on three sides by mountainous wooded land and the fourth side has a building and minor road. This location may serve as habitat for deer, elk, and big horn sheep plus birds and small mammals. The native vegetation prior to the current use was mainly coniferous trees, small shrubs and native grasses.

The location below the transecting road and building which lay below and down slope from the proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility was used as the city landfill many years ago but has since closed and subsequently been used for vehicle dismantling and storage and as a junkyard. The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility has already and will disturb and displace a minor portion of the vegetation and wildlife habitat within the proposed location. The impacts caused by the wrecking facility should not be significant to the area's ecosystem since an abundance of similar unobstructed habitat surrounds the proposed site and because of prior land usage.

2. Water quality, quantity, and distribution

The properties in this area are on wells. Based on logs from area wells, the static water level in the vicinity of the proposed facility varies from 30 to 90 feet below ground surface. This proposal is reasonably expected to not have any impacts on the quality, quantity, and distribution of the ground water drawn from the wells.

3. Geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture

The soils in the vicinity of the site are classified by the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service as Repp series. Repp series soils are part of the loamy, skeletal, frigid soil families. These soils occur on steep to very steep slopes with dominantly southern exposure. Permeability of these soils is typically moderate to severe; the potential for mass movement is rated at moderate to slight; these soils are well drained and surface runoff is slow to medium. However, the hazard of erosion is moderate to high. Because of this potential, the Storm Water Discharge Permit Program has been notified of this proposed application.

Waste anti-freeze, gasoline, and lubricating oils contain petroleum distillates, heavy metals, and possibly toxic compounds. If improperly disposed of, these materials can cause surface and groundwater degradation. The applicant proposes to properly capture and recycle all of the above-named automotive fluids. Some residual lubricating oils and anti-freeze may drip from the vehicles stored at the facility. This residual dripping is not expected to be significant or result in heavy soil accumulations.

5. Aesthetics

The applicant plans to use a wood fence on south side of the upper half of the property to shield it from public view. "Public view" is defined as any point six (6) feet above the surface of the center of a public road from which the junk vehicles can be seen.

The construction of any manmade structure or topographical reconfiguration will impact the natural aesthetics of any area. The applicant's proposed method of shielding will meet the minimum required degree of shielding for motor vehicle wrecking facilities and is not expected to significantly impact the aesthetics of the area.

9. Historical and archaeological sites

The State Historic Preservation Office conducted a cultural resource file search for the location. Based on the information on file, the State Historic Preservation Office noted that four historical or archaeological sites are located in Section 3, Township 4 North, Range 23 West. None of these sites are within the boundaries of the proposed wrecking facility. The area directly below the proposed wrecking facility served as the Alberton City landfill. As such, there may be an archaeological interest in the site at some undetermined point in the future. At present, no such interest has been identified.

Potential Impacts on Human Environment

- 3. Local & state tax base & tax revenue
- 7. Quantity and distribution of employment

The establishment of the proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility may provide a source of used motor vehicles or component parts for sale to the public. The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will allow the applicant to: (1) Buy, sell, or deal in four or more vehicles per year of a type required to be licensed for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially altering the form of the motor vehicle, (2) Buy or sell component parts, in whole or in part, and deal in second-hand motor vehicle parts, and (3) Purchase wrecked vehicles from insurance companies. Insurance companies are required by state law to sell junk vehicles only to licensed motor vehicle wrecking yards.

The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility may create an additional labor requirement and may result in additional employment. This employment and the employment requirements for the support services of this yard may provide a neutral to positive employment impact for the community.

- 9. Demands for governmental services

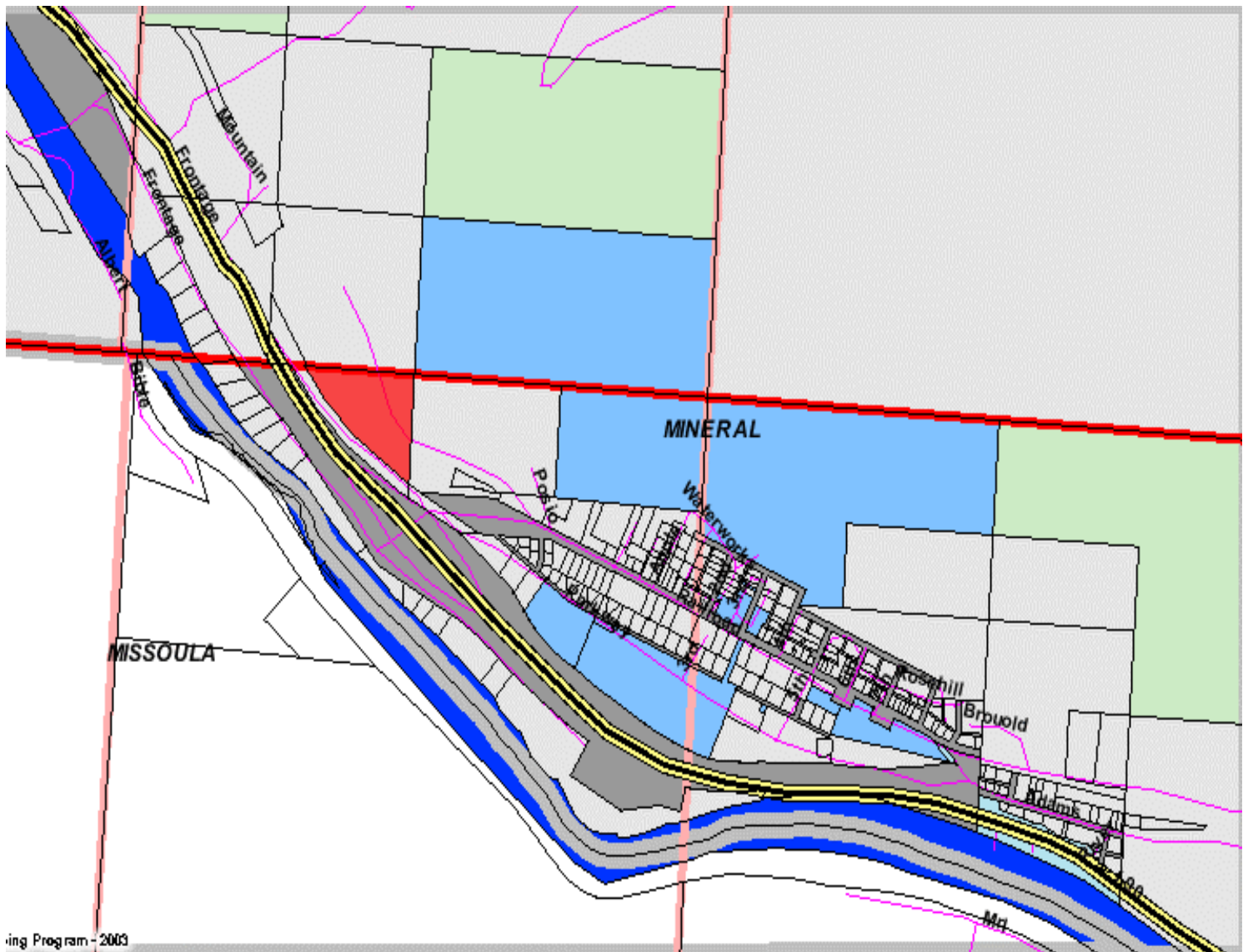
The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will require administrative and inspection services of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Mineral County Junk Vehicle Program personnel.

- 11. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

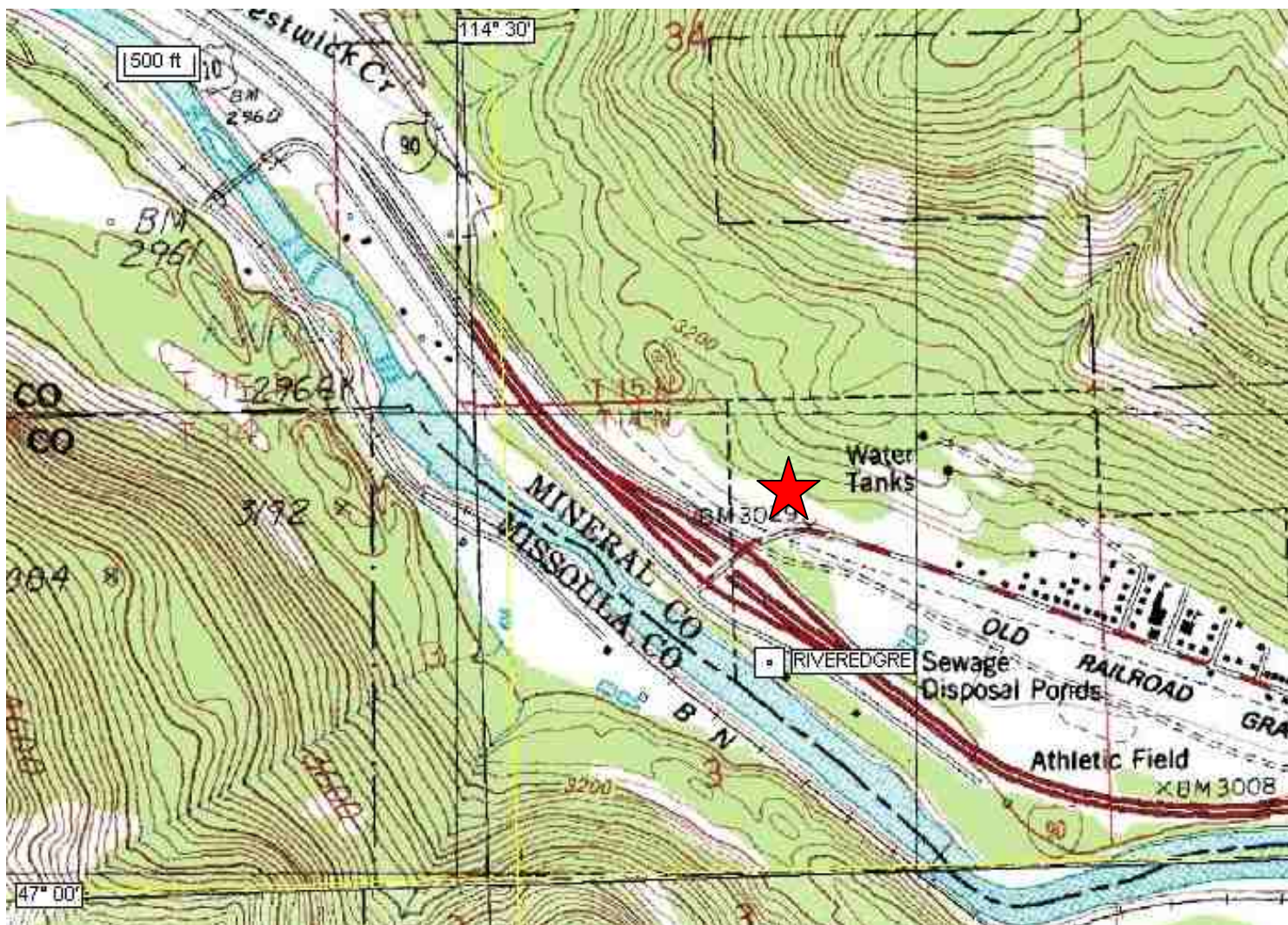
The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility at this location does not conflict with any existing zoning ordinances as certified by Tim Read, Planner, Mineral County, Superior, MT.

Effect on Adjoining Landowners and Land Uses **Other Site-Specific Information**

Information gathered for the preparation of this Environmental Assessment reveals that directly adjacent to the proposed location is one dwelling, a portion of the former Milwaukee Railroad Right-of-Way. The location of this wrecking facility should have minor or **no** impact on the adjoining landowners and land uses because of its prior use as a landfill and its close proximity to the former railroad right of way.



Joe Hanson owns the red triangle shaped property. This is the actual site of the proposed wrecking yard.
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Joe Hanson owns the property where the red star is located. This is a topographic map of the Alberton area.

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Proposal to shield remaining cars
Joe Hanson

